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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



VOLUME 67

NUMBER 5

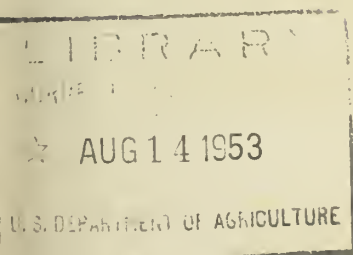
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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

AUGUST 3, 1953



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

L A T E N E W S

Mexico has reduced its export tax on flaxseed by one-half, effective July 21, 1953. On that date, the Government promulgated a decree granting an exemption of one-half of the 15 percent ad valorem surcharge on exports of this commodity.

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Canada's grain acreage is less than had been expected, on the basis of farmers' intentions to plant, and land in summerfallow is more than planned according to preliminary estimates of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, released July 29. All wheat acreage is tentatively placed at 25.5 million acres, compared with intentions to plant 25.9 million acres. Acreage in 1952 was 26.0 million acres. Oats acreage is estimated at 9.8 million acres, compared with intended acreage of 10.6 million and the 1952 area of 11.1 million. Barley area, at 8.9 million, shows little change from intentions, but is about 400,000 acres above the 1952 area. Land in summerfallow is estimated at 22.8 million acres compared with intentions of 21.9 million and last year's figure of 21.2 million acres. A more detailed discussion will follow in the August 10 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets.

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The price paid for the Argentine wheat purchased by the British Food Ministry, reported on page 10 of the July 13 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets, should be changed to read £ 29 5s to £29 10s per ton (\$2.24 to \$2.26 per bushel), c.i.f.

(Continued on Page 100)

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations.

Foreign Crops and Markets is distributed only upon a request basis. Should you find you have no need for this publication, please tear off the addressograph imprint with your name and address on the enclosing envelope, pencil "drop" upon it, and send it to the Foreign Agricultural Service, Room 5922, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

U. S. FOREIGN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING MAY, 1953 1/

Continuing the trend of recent months, United States agricultural exports showed a decline during May, 1953, the eleventh month of fiscal 1952-1953, the total outward movement amounting in value to \$221,031,000, a reduction of 1 percent compared with the \$223,535,000 worth exported in April, and of 30 percent compared with the May, 1952 exports which were valued at \$316,751,000. On the other hand, exports of nonagricultural products continued to increase, the total for May 1953 being valued at \$1,207,488,000 compared with \$1,155,664,000 in April, and \$1,141,033,000 in May a year ago.

This country's exports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, reached \$1,428,519,000 in value in May 1953, the highest overall monthly figure thus far in the 1952-53 marketing season. This represented an overall increase of 4 percent compared with the total of \$1,379,199,000 for all merchandise in April, but it was 2 percent under the total of \$1,457,784,000 for May a year ago. Agricultural products constituted 15 percent of the total outward movement during the month under review compared with 16 percent in April, and 22 percent in May a year ago.

On a dollar-value basis, cotton resumed first place as the Nation's most important agricultural export during the month, shipments abroad reaching \$47,935,000 in value. While this represented an increase of 26 percent compared with the \$37,913,000 worth exported in April, it was 28 percent under the \$67,031,000 worth exported in May a year ago. Second place was held by wheat and wheat flour, but with exports valued at only \$41,447,000, representing a reduction of 30 percent compared with the \$58,910,000 worth exported in April and of 60 percent compared with the May 1952 exports which were valued at \$104,863,000. Third position was held by leaf tobacco, exports of which were valued at \$24,617,000, a reduction of 26 percent compared with the \$33,103,000 exported in April, but an increase of 50 percent compared with the \$16,413,000 worth exported in May 1952.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features of the Nation's agricultural exports during May compared with those for the same month a year ago were the large reduction in the outward movement of rice, wheat, grain sorghums, lard, pork, butter, cheese, dried eggs, nonfat dry milk solids, horse meat, soybean oil, dried beans, grapefruit and cotton. On the other hand, the May 1953 exports of a number of commodities (notably evaporated milk, tallow, oranges, pears, prunes, canned fruits, corn, hops, soybeans, flue-cured tobacco, white potatoes and canned vegetables) were much larger than those in May 1952.

1/ More complete details than presented in this summary will be published in U. S. Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products for May 1953, available on request from Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected
agricultural products, during May 1952 and 1953

Commodity exported	Unit	May			
		Quantity		Value	
		1952	1953	1952	1953
				1,000	1,000
		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:					
Butter	Lb.	49	20	38	15
Cheese	Lb.	345	239	176	123
Milk, condensed	Lb.	2,656	2,718	646	677
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	2,842	3,394	1,621	1,813
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	9,839	7,832	1,731	923
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	8,031	13,439	1,266	2,113
Eggs, dried	Lb.	441	218	187	175
Beef and veal, total <u>1/</u>	Lb.	1,636	1,965	559	457
Pork, total <u>1/</u>	Lb.	8,655	6,392	2,053	1,488
Horse meat	Lb.	2,414	1,013	379	161
Lard	Lb.	46,395	33,841	5,775	4,014
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	52,926	82,818	3,566	4,832
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmf'd, excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	326	272	67,031	47,935
Apples, fresh	Lb.	5,328	5,941	409	461
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	19,081	13,711	577	570
Oranges, fresh	Lb.	87,676	104,370	3,468	3,860
Pears, fresh	Lb.	63	153	10	24
Prunes, dried	Lb.	2	5,981	742	988
Raisins and currants	Lb.	3,412	3,669	414	456
Fruits, canned	Lb.	9,929	12,465	1,646	2,000
Fruit juices	Gal.	2,449	2,538	1,766	2,249
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	691	661	1,139	1,267
Barley malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	496	403	1,303	1,005
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	6,761	12,427	13,559	21,866
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	8,286	722	14,981	1,539
Rice, milled (excluding paddy)	Lb.	256,516	59,357	21,219	7,063
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	38,563	15,985	98,001	33,608
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	1,057	1,217	5,150	5,776
Flour, not wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	303	407	1,712	2,063
Hops	Lb.	332	890	269	651
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.	68	77	33	40
Soybeans, except canned (60 lb.) ..	Bu.	601	2,730	1,794	8,394
Soybean oil, crude, refined, etc. ..	Lb.	24,134	3,508	2,822	541
Soybean flour, edible	Lb.	233	422	25	30
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	600	590	166	219
Tobacco, bright flue-cured	Lb.	21,700	30,842	13,302	21,246
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	5,148	4,637	3,111	3,371
Beans, dried	Lb.	58,558	15,668	2,609	1,246
Peas, dried	Lb.	3,462	3,122	251	277
Potatoes, white	Lb.	25,884	36,080	994	726
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	9,909	11,089	1,293	1,281
Total above				277,793	187,543
Food exported for relief, etc.				1,445	419
Other agricultural products				37,513	33,069
Total agricultural				316,751	221,031
Total all commodities				1,457,784	1,428,519

1/ Product weight.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption
of selected agricultural products during May 1952 and 1953

Commodity imported SUPPLEMENTARY	Unit:	Quantity		Value	
		1952	1953	1952	1953
				1,000	1,000
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands:	Thousands:	dollars:	dollars:
Cattle, dutiable	No.: 1/	16	2	1,640	
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.: 1/	2	19	681	
Casein and lactarene	Lb.: 4,938	6,407	689	792	
Cheese	Lb.: 1,904	4,944	826	1,956	
Hides and skins	Lb.: 12,030	17,065	4,138	7,692	
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.: 9,224	8,476	3,186	2,819	
Wool, unmfed, excl. free, etc.	Lb.: 34,295	23,154	25,782	16,977	
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfed., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale: 1/	16	55	2,683	
Jute and jute butts, unmfed. (2,240 lb.)	Ton: 6	10	2,386	1,750	
Apples, green or ripe (50 lb.)	Bu.: 43	43	155	176	
Olives in brine	Gal.: 1,140	1,542	1,753	2,309	
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.: 2,593	14,395	321	1,843	
Barley malt	Lb.: 5,248	5,090	323	311	
Hops	Lb.: 675	72	683	106	
Almonds, shelled	Lb.: 244	121	103	50	
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled ...	Lb.: 716	2,777	116	353	
Cashew nuts	Lb.: 1,499	2,910	666	1,257	
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.: 5,868	8,317	678	1,384	
Castor beans	Lb.: 14,141	7,058	1,243	611	
Copra	Lb.: 43,784	37,767	2,324	4,134	
Flaxseed (56 lb.)	Bu.: 1/	1/	1/	1/	
Coconut oil	Lb.: 7,522	9,896	612	1,430	
Palm oil	Lb.: 1,906	5,766	397	549	
Tung oil	Lb.: 1,166	1,466	383	365	
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton: 468	381	50,894	42,786	
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.: 62,635	35,550	11,616	2,658	
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.: 6,423	6,539	4,204	4,229	
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.: 1,836	1,292	2,516	1,984	
Potatoes, white	Lb.: 29,943	8,998	1,435	178	
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.: 3,002	1,042	217	75	
COMPLEMENTARY					
Wool, unmfed., free in bond	Lb.: 10,640	15,099	5,779	7,263	
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch 4,635	4,901	5,077	6,707	
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.: 148,642	164,927	76,128	87,485	
Cocoa or cacao beans	Lb.: 64,264	63,825	21,290	17,390	
Tea	Lb.: 7,132	7,943	3,271	3,440	
Spices (complementary)	Lb.: 3,769	7,925	2,305	5,131	
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton: 15	14	6,863	3,524	
Rubber, crude	Lb.: 132,681	125,721	48,878	29,106	
Total above			287,313	263,824	
Other agricultural products			65,875	66,888	
Total agricultural products			353,188	330,712	
Total all commodities			842,746	891,102	

1/ Less than 500.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

With respect to agricultural imports, receipts from abroad during May 1953 were valued at \$330,712,000, a reduction of 22 percent compared with the \$422,021,000 worth imported in April, but of only 6 percent compared with those for May 1952. The country's total imports of all merchandise, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, amounted in value to only \$391,102,000 during the month under review, compared with \$997,703,000 in April, and \$842,746,000 in May last year.

On a dollar-value basis, agricultural products constituted 37 percent of the total imports during May compared with 42 percent in April and 42 percent in May 1952. As usual, such commodities as coffee, sugar, rubber and wool constituted the principal agricultural imports. The figures also disclose that while the value of our May 1953 agricultural imports declined by 6 percent compared with those for the same month a year ago, imports of nonagricultural products increased by 14 percent.

Quantitatively, the May 1953 agricultural imports compared with those for the same month last year, show very large reductions for canned and corned beef, dutiable wool, hops, castor beans, copra, sugar and molasses, white potatoes, fresh tomatoes and rubber. Reductions are also shown for barley, shelled almonds, cacao or cocoa beans, and sisal. On the other hand, they show increases compared with May 1952 for a number of products, viz., cattle, cheese, casein and lactarene, hides and skins, nondutiable wool, cotton, pineapples, Brazil nuts, cashews, coconut meat, coconut oil, palm oil, coffee, spices, jute, olives in brine, tung oil, bananas, and tea.

The value of the Nation's agricultural imports during May exceeded that of its agricultural exports by \$109,681,000. In the preceding month, agricultural imports exceeded agricultural exports in value by \$198,486,000. During May, 1952, however, they exceeded the value of our agricultural exports by only \$36,437,000.-----By Leo. J. Schaben.

ITALIAN BRINED CHERRY PRODUCTION

The Italian brined cherry pack is tentatively estimated at 30,000 to 35,000 barrels (220.46 pounds) in 1953 compared with about 82,600 barrels in 1952. Weather conditions during the growing season this spring were decidedly unfavorable and the quality of the pack is expected to be only mediocre to fair.

In view of the short pack this season brined cherry prices have increased during the packing season and are substantially above those of a year earlier. First quality cherries opened at 17 cents per pound c. & f. but rose to 21 cents in mid-June. Last year prices of those exported to the United States sold at 17 cents c. & f. Those of cocktail quality opened at last year's price of 19 cents and in mid-June were quoted at 24 cents. The over-all average price of brined cherries exported to all destinations and for all qualities last year was 13 to 14 cents per pound.

Canada, the United Kingdom, France and the United States, in the order named, were the chief destinations of the Italian exports of brined cherries in 1952-53. Canada took 19,241 barrels, the United Kingdom 17,052, France 16,900 and the United States 12,942. The grand total was 80,628 barrels.

CUBAN IMPORTS OF VEGETABLE OILS EXPECTED BELOW 1952 LEVEL

Cuban imports of vegetable fats and oils in 1953 are expected to be at lower levels than last year, partly due to a general recession in purchasing power, reports Guy L. Bush, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Havana. Imports in 1952 of 14,450 short tons were 32 percent below comparable 1951 receipts. It generally has been conceded that 1951 stocks were built to an excessive point and maintained at that level well into 1952.

About 73 percent of the 1952 importation was classified as edible, with olive oil constituting over 37 percent of the edible imports in comparison to about one-half in the preceding year. Coconut oil made up the major portion of the vegetable oils imported in 1952 for soap making. Most of the olive oil came from Spain while nearly all of the coconut oil came from the United States.

Edible fats and oils imported in 1952 totaled 9,450 tons and were as follows: Olive oil--3,500 tons; soybean oil--4,450; cottonseed oil--600; peanut oil--550; coconut oil--150; and vegetable shortening--200 tons. Inedible imports of 2,520 tons consisted of 2,458 tons of coconut oil and 62 tons of palm oil.

Domestic production of vegetable oil in Cuba is confined principally to peanut oil. Output in 1952-53 was 1,350 tons, substantially above the 750 tons produced in 1951-52 but still sharply below 1946-47 production of 6,000 tons.

Although olive oil, both pure and in blends with other oils, is generally preferred to lard, the comparatively low price of lard imported from the United States caused a substantial increase in lard consumption in 1952. Lard imports last year were in excess of 87,000 tons, a record volume. (See following page for Cuban lard and tallow imports in April-June 1953)

During the latter part of 1952 and continuing into this year there has been a general reduction in the demand for fats and oils in Cuba. It is reported also that a shift from lard consumption back to olive oil and other cooking oils is in progress due to greatly reduced prices of these latter products.

CUBA IMPORTS LESS LARD AND TALLOW IN APRIL-JUNE

Cuban imports of lard, as well as tallow and greases, were down sharply in the April-June quarter of this year, reports Agricultural Attache Guy L. Bush, American Embassy, Havana. With demand having weakened since the first quarter, wholesale importers of lard limited their purchases to bare needs because of the recent erratic price movements in the Chicago market and a tighter credit situation in Cuba. Importers are expected to continue purchasing lard on a "hand-to-mouth" basis so long as the consumer demand is down and the relatively high price for pork products persists.

Imports of lard and rendered pork fat into Cuba in the April-June period totaled 26.5 million pounds, a decline of about one-fourth from the 36.1 million pounds imported in the second quarter of 1952. On the basis of the first 6 months of this year, imports of lard and rendered pork fat at 65.0 million pounds reflect a one-third cutback in purchases from the first half of 1953--the year in which Cuba's imports established a new record of 175.3 million pounds.

Table 1 - CUBA: Imports of lard and rendered pork fat,
by quarters, 1950-1953

(Million pounds)

Quarter	1950	1951	1952	1953
Jan.-Mar.....	36.2	49.8	59.5	38.5
Apr.-June.....	33.8	25.5	36.1	26.5
July-Sept.....	45.3	31.6	35.6	-
Oct.-Dec.....	24.5	39.1	44.1	-
Total.....	139.8	146.0	175.3	-

Source: American Embassy, Havana.

Wholesale prices of imported steam lard were somewhat higher in April-June than in the preceding quarter, ranging from 17.0 to 18.75 cents per pound.

Domestic production of lard in April-June was considered negligible. It is likely to remain so unless domestic hog producers, influenced by current high prices, should increase production.

Imports of tallow (chiefly inedible) and greases in the second quarter of this year were 4.8 million pounds, a decrease of nearly half from the quantity that came into Cuba in the corresponding period in 1952.

Table 2 - CUBA: Imports of tallow (mainly inedible) and greases, by quarters, 1950-1953

(Million pounds)

Quarter	1950	1951	1952	1953
Jan.-Mar.....	8.0	8.8	6.2	8.1
Apr.-June.....	5.6	14.6	9.3	4.8
July-Sept.....	9.7	6.2	4.9	-
Oct.-Dec.....	8.7	4.7	7.8	-
Total.....	32.0	34.3	28.2	-

Source: American Embassy, Havana.

Tallow and greases are used largely in the making of soap. However, a sizable portion also goes into the making of synthetic detergents which have displaced several million pounds of tallow and greases in the local soap industry.

U.K. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS AND MEAT PRODUCTION CONTINUE UPWARD TREND

Feed supplies in the United Kingdom were sufficient in the last year to sustain further livestock increases, according to William Kling, American Embassy, London. Pastures have provided a good supply of grass this year and greater consumption of concentrates is expected with derationing of these feed supplies after August 31. This points towards continuing increases in livestock for meat production.

During 1952 pigs and sheep increased especially and a slight increase occurred in cattle and calves. Increases in hog breeding in 1952 indicate a continuing increase in pig numbers. Large ewe numbers and favorable lambing conditions assure a large lamb crop. The increase in cattle occurred in animals under 1 year old. This reflects the recent calf rearing subsidy which was designed to encourage farmers to retain calves for beef.

Corresponding increases have occurred in meat production. During 1952 the United Kingdom's total meat production was approximately 13 percent above 1951. Further increases are probably for 1953 and 1954.

Cattle, hogs and sheep on farms in the United Kingdom
December 1950, 1951 and 1952

Description	: December : : 1950 : : 1,000 head:	: December : : 1951 : : 1,000 head:	: December : : 1952 : : 1,000 head:
<u>Cattle</u>			
cows and heifers in milk	: 2,594	: 2,523	: 2,582
cows in calf but not in milk	: 1,126	: 1,059	: 1,058
heifers in calf but not in milk	: 603	: 608	: 605
Total dairy cattle	: (4,323)	: (4,190)	: (4,245)
bulls and bull calves	: 170	: 154	: 146
<u>Other cattle</u>	: (5,657)	: (5,485)	: (5,502)
2 years and above	: 1,530	: 1,594	: 1,605
1 year and under 2 years	: 1,954	: 1,916	: 1,762
under 1 year	: 2,173	: 1,975	: 2,135
Total cattle and calves	: 10,150	: 9,829	: 9,892
<u>Hogs</u>			
Total sows for breeding	: 444	: 571	: 618
gilts in pig	: -	: (377)	: (423)
boars for service	: 24	: 31	: 33
other pigs	: 3,039	: 3,916	: 4,252
Total pigs	: 3,507	: 4,895	: 5,326
<u>Sheep</u>			
ewes kept for breeding	: 6,897	: 7,405	: 7,744
rams and ram lambs	: 291	: 243	: 249
<u>Other sheep</u>	: (7,683)	: (8,115)	: (8,465)
1 year and above	: 2,582	: 2,778	: 2,678
under 1 year	: 5,101	: 5,337	: 5,787
Total sheep and lambs	: 14,871	: 15,762	: 16,458

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Imports of meat have also risen, adding to the United Kingdom's supplies of meat. January-May imports were one-third larger than for the same period of 1952. The current meat ration, covering a 12-week period, has a base of about 33 cents per week as compared to 25 cents earlier in the year. In July, due to larger supplies of meat, a special bonus of 2 cents was added to the current ration. Some consumers are not buying their rations of the less desirable cuts such as ewe, mutton and fat pork. However, canned meats, some types of bacon and canned beef are not rationed. In addition full storage which resulted from larger supplies has forced derationing of surplus meat. Full derationing of meat may occur in another year or two. But the current large supplies are chiefly seasonal and a lower ration is probable after December.

Several proposals for a changed meat marketing system have been made in light of the possible decontrol of meat and some questions have been raised regarding the assurance of guaranteed prices to farmers. Average livestock prices for 1953-54 have been assured at a level slightly above 1952-53. Fixed producer prices in conjunction with falling prices of feed should stimulate meat production. A further stimulus is provided by production subsidies and consumer subsidies will continue although at a lower rate than in earlier years.

U. S. RICE EXPORTS SMALLEST IN 9 MONTHS

United States rice exports in May of 621,000 bags (100 pounds) dropped to slightly more than one-half the total of 1,132,000 bags in the preceding month, and were the smallest since August 1952. Shipments decreased to Japan, and greatly reduced quantities were shipped to Korea and Cuba.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,
May 1953, with comparisons 1/

Continent and country	August-July		August-May		May	
	1945-46	1951-52	1951-52	1952-53	1952	1953
	to	1951-52	1951-52	1952-53	1952	1953
	1949-50			<u>2/</u>		<u>2/</u>
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>	<u>bags</u>
Western Hemisphere						
Canada.....	399	442	399	566	43	34
British Honduras.....	13	22	22	2	2	0
British West Indies....	97	54	53	80	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>
Cuba.....	4,923	5,118	4,022	3,845	242	34
Netherlands Antilles...	9	25	21	37	4	3
Venezuela.....	76	196	196	64	1	<u>3/</u>
Other countries.....	104	38	35	9	5	1
Total.....	5,621	5,896	4,748	4,603	297	72
Europe:						
Belgium & Luxembourg...	73	57	49	46	6	0
Greece.....	109	209	165	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	0
Iceland.....	10	3	0	8	0	2
Switzerland.....	32	21	21	34	1	0
Other countries.....	<u>4/</u> 114	1	2	1	<u>3/</u>	0
Total.....	338	291	237	89	7	2
Asia:						
Saudi Arabia.....	80	91	75	121	9	18
Ceylon.....	0	741	503	647	503	0
Indonesia.....	646	1,729	1,424	1,100	15	0
Philippines.....	1,136	71	5	0	5	0
China.....	796	0	0	0	0	0
Korea.....	98	2,821	2,821	1,549	360	119
Hong Kong.....	37	0	0	179	0	0
Japan.....	279	5,430	4,638	4,420	1,392	410
Other countries.....	23	9	8	3	2	<u>3/</u>
Total.....	3,095	10,962	9,544	8,019	2,236	547
Total Oceania.....	5	13	12	17	3	<u>3/</u>
Africa						
Liberia.....	36	73	73	22	0	<u>3/</u>
Other Africa.....	1	4	1	<u>3/</u>	1	<u>3/</u>
Total World.....	9,096	17,239	14,615	12,750	2,594	621

1/ Milled rice, including brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 bags. 4/ Average of 72,000 bags to Austria, 14,000 bags to Germany and 11,000 bags to France.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

May exports brought to 12,750,000 bags the total exported during the August-May period of the current marketing year, a decrease of 1,865,000 bags as compared with the same months of the preceding season. Though reductions this year so far appear in shipments to all continents, the largest decline is in Asia, primarily to Korea, Indonesia, and Japan. Sixty-three percent of August-May exports were to Asia (35 percent to Japan and 12 percent to Korea), 36 percent to the Western Hemisphere (30 percent to Cuba), and less than 1 percent of the total went to Europe.

Monthly exports during the August-April period of the 1952-53 (August-July) season were as follows in 1,000 bags: August, 519; September, 1,017; October, 1,992; November, 1,492; December, 2,033; January, 1,997; February, 806; March, 1,142, and April, 1,132.

THAILAND RICE MARKETING

Rice exports from Thailand during the second quarter of 1953 amounted to 887 million pounds as compared with 728 million pounds during the corresponding period of 1952, according to a report from the American Embassy, Bangkok. The significant increase from the latter period as well as from the exports in the first quarter of 1953 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, May 25, 1953) is attributed to large Government-to-Government shipments to Japan.

THAILAND: Rice exports, cumulative by month, January-June, 1951-53

Month	1951		1952		1953	
	Volume	Cumu-	Volume	Cumu-	Volume	Cumu-
	per	lative	per	lative	per	lative
	month		month		month	
	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
January.....	264	-	309	-	182	-
February.....	409	673	297	606	224	406
March.....	384	1,057	280	886	294	700
April.....	283	1,340	154	1,040	274	974
May.....	239	1,579	258	1,298	310	1,284
June.....	167	1,746	316	1,614	303	1,587

Compiled from Embassy reports.

On the other hand, exports during the first half of 1953 showed a moderate decline as compared with the corresponding period of a year earlier, and were considerably less than during the first half of 1951, the year in which Thailand's rice exports were at a postwar peak. Largest shipments this year have been to Japan and Malaya, with more than one-half exported at Government-to-Government prices. Heaviest commercial shipments at higher prices were over 200 million pounds to Korea.

THAILAND: Rice (milled) exports, by country
of destination, January-June 1953, with comparisons

Country of destination	January-June					
	1951	1952	1952	1953		Total
				Govt-to Govt	Commer- cial	
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Borneo.....	68:	44:	31:	32:	0:	32
Ceylon.....	0:	36:	36:	0:	0:	0
Hong Kong.....	235:	387:	268:	133:1/	158:	291
India.....	507:	391:	235:	0:	5:	5
Indonesia.....	411:	423:	232:	0:	32:	32
Japan.....	782:	657:	347:	363:	146:	509
Malaya-Singapore..	801:	846:	388:	249:2/	155:	404
Philippines.....	243:	66:	0:	0:	0:	0
Korea.....	60:	109:	63:	0:	202:	202
Okinawa.....	3/	21:	3/	0:	0:	0
Near East.....	3/	33:	3/	0:	9:	9
New Guinea.....	3/	11:	3/	3:	0:	3
Africa.....	43:	35:	3/	0:	55:	55
Netherlands.....	133:	63:	4:	0:	30:	30
United Kingdom...	1:	7:	3/	0:	1:	1
Belgium.....	36:	11:	0:	0:	1:	1
Other countries...	87:	8:	10:	0:	13:	13
Total.....	3,429:	3,143:	1,614:4/	780:	807:	1,587

1/ Includes "in transit" shipments of 29 million pounds, probably to Indonesia.

2/ Includes "in transit" shipments to Japan. 3/ If any, not separately reported. 4/ Includes 44 million pounds of 1952 allocations shipped in January 1953.

Compiled from Embassy reports.

Official Government-to-Government allocations for export during 1953 came to 1,365 million pounds at the end of the first semester, of which 54 percent had been shipped on June 30.

THAILAND: Rice shipments under
Government allocations, January-June 1953

Country	Allocations 1/ for shipment in 1953		Shipment January-June		Balance Due	
	Metric tons	Million pounds	Metric tons	Million pounds	Metric tons	Million pounds
British.....	320,000:	706:167,500:	370:152,500:		336	
Japan.....	228,000:	503:164,595:	363: 63,405:		140	
Korea.....	50,000:	110: 0:	0: 50,000:		110	
Saudi Arabia.....	10,000:	22: 0:	0: 10,000:		22	
Mauritius.....	5,000:	11: 0:	0: 5,000:		11	
Dutch New Guinea.....	4,000:	9: 1,525:	3: 2,475:		6	
Aden.....	2,000:	4: 0:	0: 2,000:		4	
Total.....	619,000:	1,365:333,620:	736:285,380:		629	

1/ As of June 30.

Compiled from Embassy report.

Exports to Korea applicable to a Government allocation of 110 million pounds have been delayed until financial arrangements have been finalized. The Ryukyuan Government recently withdrew a request for a Government allocation of 132 million pounds. There have been no developments on the proposed allocation to India, negotiations still reportedly being deadlocked over terms of delivery.

British Territories' representatives recently have commenced negotiations for an additional 1953 allocation. Price renegotiations on the remaining 331 million pounds to be delivered on a February contract are also under way. On July 10, Indonesia was allocated 132 million pounds; however, as of July 14, the agreement had not been formally concluded.

Commercial prices prevailing during the second quarter remained at approximately the same level as in the preceding quarter. April prices rose sharply in the early part of the month, but declined gradually as a result of a reported buyers' resistance. During the months of May and June the average price of commercial white rice, contract grades, ranged between \$2.58 and \$2.68 per 100 pounds over the official Government-to-Government f.o.b. prices.

SOUTH KOREAN RICE CROP PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Rice was being transplanted under favorable circumstances throughout the Republic of Korea in early July, according to recent information from Pusan. Rainy weather during June and the availability of fertilizer supplies for rice seedbeds resulted in bright prospects for a good crop in 1953.

Observers who participated in a summer grain crop survey of June 11 to 25 estimate that all the 3,050,000 acres of available paddy land was planted in rice this year, as well as some fields not usually considered paddy land. Given normal crop conditions during the next 4 months, a production of between 6,400 and 6,900 million pounds of rough rice should be harvested. South Korea is estimated to have produced in 1952 around 6,400 million pounds of rough rice from 2,280,000 acres.

According to reports from Thailand and Burma, Korea was shipped 200 million pounds of milled rice from Thailand during the first half of 1953, and more than 300 million pounds additional for export in 1953 is now being contemplated from the 2 countries.

ECUADOR AUTHORIZES RICE EXPORTS

The Ecuadoran Government on July 7 authorized rice exports of 51 million pounds, according to decree No. 1180 published in Official Register No. 258 of that date. Rice exports will not be subsidized as in previous years, nor will export quotas be applied. The decree states that an unusually large crop was harvested this year, and an adequate supply is assured for domestic needs.

FRANCE REPORTS GOOD
GRAIN CROPS

The 1953 grain crop in France is very good, on the basis of the official forecast, as of the first of July. The wheat crop was forecast at about 302 million bushels. This is slightly above earlier-season forecasts and only about 2 percent below the large 1952 harvest. This would be, with the exception of last year's outturn, the largest postwar crop. Grain harvesting started later than expected, as it was held up by rainy weather. The harvest is occurring at about the normal period, however, since crops were ahead of season prior to the rains.

The favorable wheat outlook is attributed to high yields, with acreage the smallest of recent years, on the basis of preliminary estimates. The forecast yield of 29.4 bushels per acre would be an all-time record for the country. Government officials point out, however, that this preliminary forecast is made with some reservations, and that final figures may vary somewhat from the forecast. Threshing returns show that some heads are not well filled, as a result of rainy weather at flowering time.

Production of oats, the second largest grain crop, is expected to be about 233 million bushels. This is very slightly above the 1952 production. Both acreage and yields are now forecast at about the 1952 figure. The oats crop suffered more than other grain crops from the spring drought.

The barley outturn is expected to be about 94 million bushels. This would exceed the 1952 harvest, which was the largest of recent years. Both acreage and yields are estimated larger than in 1952. The crop improved greatly during May and June, and the present yield forecast of 32 bushels per acre is much above normal.

Rye acreage and yields are not up to the 1952 figures and the forecast harvest of 18 million bushels is below average as well as below last year's production. Winter mixed grains are expected to show little change from the 1952 crop. Yields are expected to be better but acreage shows some reduction from the 1952 area. Acreage of spring mixed grains and of buckwheat is reported less than in 1952. Yields of mixed grains are also forecast at a lower figure than in 1952. No yield forecast is available for buckwheat.

Corn acreage is about 6 percent above the 1952 corn area, on the basis of the preliminary estimate. Increases were reported especially in the main producing region in southwestern France. The condition of the crop is irregular, as a result of spring drought and recent lack of sunshine. Despite this, present conditions are reported favorable for a good crop.

Hay from permanent meadows was cut under unfavorable conditions during June. The volume of the cutting was below normal and was of poor quality, as a result of early drought that delayed growth and of wet weather at cutting time.

The official price of wheat to producers for the 1953 crop was announced as the same as for the 1952 harvest. The basic price is 3600 francs per metric quintal (\$2.80 per bushel). Premiums and discounts are applied for weight variations from the standard and certain taxes are deducted from that figure.

TURKEY MAINTAINS 1952 GRAIN PURCHASE PRICES

Prices to be paid Turkish wheat producers for their 1953 grain crops are announced at the same level as in 1952. The maximum - minimum range of purchase prices, depending on quality, in equivalent dollars per bushel are \$2.92-\$2.06 for wheat, \$1.90-\$1.42 for rye, \$1.48-\$1.10 for barley, and \$0.99-\$0.75 for oats. These prices apply to grain meeting quality standards set up in connection with the basic prices. Quotations are for quality grain delivered at purchase centers. The number of such centers has been increased to a total of 311 throughout the country.

The prices at which grains are actually purchased from producers are determined by local inspectors at purchase centers. Samples are taken by inspectors who determine general quality, foreign matter content, etc. and thus arrive at the quality grade and discount, if any, to be made from the basic price. The pricing schedule shows 41 quality grades of wheat recognized. It appears that the bulk of the wheat purchased falls within quality grades No. 4 to 13 with an average cost of \$2.65 - \$2.70 per bushel at official exchange rates.

With relatively high prices received for export wheat during the first half of the 1952-53 export season, the average value of the past season's wheat exports was approximately \$3.20 per bushel at official rates of exchange. This is estimated to be a margin of 45-50 cents per bushel above the average purchase price at country points, which should cover administrative and operational costs.

The outlook is less favorable for the 1953-54 export year, in view of a probable lower level of export prices as reflected in the recent sale to Spain of about 7.5 million bushels of wheat at about \$2.56 per bushel.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS TURN UPWARD

Exports of cotton from the United States in May amounted to 272,000 bales of 500 pounds (261,000 running bales), slightly higher than those of any month since January 1953. The August-May 1952-53 total of 2,829,000 bales (2,713,000 running bales) amounts to only 52.5 percent of last year's 10-month total of 5,390,000 bales (5,206,000 running bales).

Reduced exports this year may be attributed almost entirely to competition from foreign growths of cotton. Foreign mill consumption as a whole apparently was slightly higher than in 1951-52 but most mills purchased cotton on a hand-to-mouth basis and reduced inventories because of a downtrend in world prices for cotton and cotton goods during the first half of the season and a weak export demand for cotton goods.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; averages
1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1950-51 and 1951-52
August-May 1951-52 and 1952-53

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1					
	Averages		1950	1951	August-May	
	1935-39	1945-49			1951-52	1952-53
	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales	1,000 bales
Austria.....	0	36	55	32	31	40
Belgium-Luxembourg..	169	131	80	317	315	68
Czechoslovakia.....	65	57	6	0	0	0
Denmark.....	33	14	31	34	33	30
Finland.....	35	21	3	33	33	4
France.....	662	575	447	309	293	475
Germany.....	511	340	481	447	413	216
Greece.....	3	21	1	0	0	0
Italy.....	442	489	546	560	458	246
Netherlands.....	107	131	158	197	186	71
Norway.....	17	7	20	15	15	11
Poland and Danzig...	180	69	1	0	0	0
Spain.....	108	69	66	203	184	65
Sweden.....	115	12	33	100	99	35
Switzerland.....	11	26	22	99	99	27
United Kingdom.....	1,346	488	307	662	662	340
Yugoslavia.....	17	47	78	122	119	72
Other Europe.....	2/ 64	12	12:3/	27	26	5
Total Europe....	3,385	2,545	2,347	3,157	2,966	1,705
Canada.....	301	275	431	296	280	261
Chile.....	9	20	48	35	35	1
Colombia.....	20	24	55	53	49	34
Cuba.....	11	16	24	20	19	10
India.....	52	86	219	778	760	38
China.....	117	401	54	0	0	0
Hong Kong.....	4/	35	27	0	0	0
Indonesia.....	4/	5	16	14	13	15
Japan.....	1,142	585	883	1,095	1,022	548
Korea, Republic of..	5/ 6/	48	36	55	51	33
Australia.....	9	7	0	50	50	10
Other countries.....	43	18	140:7/	158	145:8/	174
Total.....	5,589	4,065	4,280	5,711	5,390	2,829

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Includes Portugal 36. 3/ Includes Portugal 21.
4/ Less than 500 bales. 5/ If any, included in Other countries. 6/ 3-year
average. 7/ Includes Taiwan 53, French Indochina 24, 8/ Includes Taiwan 106

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Large stocks of cotton in foreign exporting countries at the beginning of the season were largely responsible for a drop in foreign cotton prices to a level (early in 1953) below those for United States cotton. Exports from foreign countries (except Brazil) have been relatively heavy this year while those from the United States declined. As a result, the surplus stocks abroad (except in Brazil and Egypt) have been depleted with stocks in importing countries generally at or well below those of a year ago.

These factors, together with a prospective decrease of around 1 million bales in foreign production in 1953-54, suggest that competition from foreign growths of cotton on world markets may not be as keen in the coming year as in 1952-53. Other factors that should tend to maintain United States cotton exports in 1953-54 at a level slightly higher than in 1952-53 are (1) issuance by the Mutual Security Agency of \$126 million of left-over 1952-53 funds for cotton exports in 1953-54, (2) establishment of United States Government-insured stocks of American cotton in foreign market centers, and (3) indications currently that foreign mill consumption as a whole will be maintained in 1953-54 at or near the present favorable level.--By Charles H. Barber.

L A T E NEWS

(Continued from Page 84)

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports to foreign destinations in April amounted to 83,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross). The figures include cotton linters, waste, hull fiber, and motes, but do not include cotton exported direct from Mexico to foreign destinations. Principal destinations during August-April 1952-53 are Japan 342,000 bales, Belgium 99,000, Western Germany 75,000, Netherlands 74,000, United Kingdom 52,000, Spain 32,000, Finland 18,000, Italy 16,000, Switzerland 14,000, Sweden 14,000, and France 8,000.

Imports of cotton into Belgium in May totaled 30,000 bales (of 500 pounds) which was approximately equal to consumption. Stocks on hand at the end of the month were reported at 114,000 bales compared with 145,000 a year ago. Stocks of United States cotton amounted to only 36,000 bales compared with 106,000 a year ago.